



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 8

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**OCT 20 2016**

Ref: 8P-AR

Steven M. Pirner  
Secretary, Department of Environment and Natural Resources  
Joe Foss Building  
523 East Capitol  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-3182

Dear Mr. Pirner:

Thank you for your letter of September 30, 2016, providing recommendations for designating areas in your state for the purposes of attaining the 2015 revised ozone national ambient air quality standards.

South Dakota's letter is an important step toward providing citizens in your state with critical information about air pollution levels in their communities. We will carefully review these recommendations and work with the South Dakota Air Quality Program in determining the final area designations. We plan to announce our intended designations no later than 120 days prior to finalizing the designations. The EPA expects to finalize the designations no later than October 1, 2017.

We look forward to working with South Dakota in the coming months on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at (303) 312-6676.

Sincerely,

for Martin Hestmark  
Assistant Regional Administrator  
Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance

cc: Brian Gustafson, Air Quality Program